



Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>

Illegal Tree Pruning Motion

Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 26, 2016 at 3:26 PM

To: Veronica Perez <vp@veronicaperez.com>

As you requested. Have a good evening.



Mary D. Rodriguez

Field Deputy

Silver Lake, Atwater Village & LA River

Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

1722 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90026

Phone (213) 207-3015 | Desk (213) 207- 3021

Fax (213) 207-3031 | www.cd13.org

mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org



Illegal Tree Pruning Motion.pdf

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MOTION

Recently a private entity conducted tree pruning activities on nine City street trees in the Silver Lake neighborhood of the 13th District.

Upon further investigation, it was found that the pruning was performed without a permit, and the poor quality of the pruning resulted in three of the trees requiring replacement, and three others requiring careful monitoring to ensure the canopy returns properly.

The urban forest is an essential component for healthy living in a densely populated environment. Trees help purify the air we breathe, help manage our City's water by intercepting pollutants from water that penetrates into the ground and helps reduce run off and flooding. Additionally, trees provide shade to homes, businesses and public rights of way thereby reducing the heat island effect.

It is imperative that the City take every effort to ensure the protection and preservation of our urban forest in order to reap all the environmental and aesthetic benefits that trees provide.


The City has some inspection and enforcement protocols as it relates to street trees, however incidents like the one noted here continue to occur and lead to further deterioration of the City's urban forest.

Action is needed to assess all current protocols and fiscal needs necessary to have a robust set of modern guidelines and appropriate enforcement mechanisms.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, and any other relevant departments to report back on the current protocols for inspection and enforcement of both permitted and unpermitted tree pruning and removal, funding and staffing levels within the Bureau of Street Services needed to effectuate current and any proposed guidelines, as well as general recommendations to improve current practices.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the City Attorney, and any other relevant departments, report back on recommendations for establishing monetary fines for illegal tree pruning and removals, including its inclusion within the Administrative Citation Enforcement Program.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

2016
SECONDED BY:





Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>

Illegal Tree Pruning Motion

Veronica Perez <vp@veronicaperez.com>
To: Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 26, 2016 at 3:30 PM

Thank you!



Veronica Perez
655 S. Hope Street, Suite 1208
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Mobile: (626) 644-5525
Phone: (213) 221-7161 *Fax:* (213) 221-7128
vp@veronicaperez.com www.veronicaperez.com

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS | PUBLIC AFFAIRS | COMMUNITY OUTREACH | LOBBYING

From: Mary Rodriguez [mailto:mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 3:27 PM
To: Veronica Perez
Subject: Illegal Tree Pruning Motion

[Quoted text hidden]



Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>

Re; Sunset Triangle Tree Trimming Followup

Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 29, 2016 at 3:06 PM

To: Mary Rodriguez <Mary.D.Rodriguez@lacity.org>

Cc: Marisol Rodriguez <marisol.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Tony Arranaga <tony.arranaga@lacity.org>, Hector Banuelos <hector.banuelos@lacity.org>, Jeanne Min <jeanne.min@lacity.org>

Bcc: Gennelle Levin, "Fox, Tim F (tim.fox@outfrontmedia.com)"

<tim.fox@outfrontmedia.com>, Veronica Perez <vp@veronicaperez.com>, Michael McKinley

Hugh Kenny

, Rosa Max

dennis@banbillboardlight.org, Vince Brook

, Road Block

, Robert Peppey

, Pasqual Lombard

Scott Crawford

, Darryl

Kitagawa

Dear Silver Lake Friends,

As a followup to our meeting last week, I want to let you know that Councilmember O'Farrell made a motion on Tuesday regarding the citywide tree trimming policy for private entities. See message below and attached motion. In addition, Outfront Media has scheduled to meet with the Silver Lake Improvement Association and the Silver Lake Farmer's Market to discuss improvements to the plaza. Thank you for your concern and participation in this matter.



Mary D. Rodriguez

Field Deputy

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COUNCILMEMBER O'FARRELL SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN CITYWIDE TREE TRIMMING POLICY FOR PRIVATE ENTITIES

CITY HALL -- Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell introduced a motion today that seeks to evaluate the current protocols for inspection and enforcement of both permitted and unpermitted pruning and removal of trees on public rights of way across the City.

The motion was introduced following the unpermitted trimming of nine trees over the holidays at Sunset Triangle Plaza in Silver Lake, next to Polka Dot Plaza at the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Griffith Park Boulevard. The City's Department of Urban Forestry said three of the nine trees were severely damaged by a private entity and will need to be replaced.

"The City has tree pruning protocols as it relates to street trees, however, without proper inspection and enforcement, incidents like the one in Silver Lake continue to occur and lead to further deterioration of the City's urban forest," said Councilmember O'Farrell in the motion he introduced Tuesday during the regular Council meeting. The motion seeks to re-evaluate this process, and make improvements where necessary.

Following the tree trimming incident in Silver Lake, Councilmember O'Farrell directed staff to organize a meeting with the billboard company responsible for the tree trimming, a group of neighbors, and the City's Division of Urban Forestry.

During that meeting, the billboard company agreed to consider the replacement of three of the damaged trees, donate public service announcement space on their billboard, and make other improvements at the plaza. The Councilmember is working to follow through with the City Attorney to determine what fines, if any, are applicable to this act of vandalism.

The Councilmember also seeks to review funding and staffing levels needed for proper enforcement, as well as hear a report back on recommendations for monetary fines for illegal pruning and removal.

"It is imperative the City take every effort to ensure the protection and preservation of our urban forest in order to reap all the environmental and aesthetic benefits that trees provide," said O'Farrell.

The motion and report backs will be heard in the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee in the coming weeks.



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